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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/535,385	12/13/2005	Dalia Cohen	DC 4-32775A	3883

1095 7590 05/02/2007

NOVARTIS
CORPORATE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ONE HEALTH PLAZA 104/3
EAST HANOVER, NJ 07936-1080

EXAMINER

CHONG, KIMBERLY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1635

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/02/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/535,385

Applicant(s)

COHEN ET AL.

Examiner

Kimberly Chong

Art Unit

1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Furthermore, under PCT Rule 13.2 the requirement of unity of invention referred to in PCT Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-14 and 37-39, drawn to a method of treat, prevent or ameliorate pathological conditions associated with AB secretion comprising administering an effective amount of one or more modulators of one or more proteins wherein said modulator inhibits activity of said protein.

Group II, claim(s) 15-25, drawn to a method to identify modulators useful to treat prevent or ameliorate pathological conditions associated with AB secretion comprising assaying for the ability of a candidate modulator to inhibit the activity of a protein.

Art Unit: 1635

Group III, claim(s) 25-31, drawn to a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more modulators of one or more proteins effective to treat or ameliorate pathological conditions associated with AB secretion.

Group IV, claim(s) 32-36, drawn to a method to diagnose subjects suffering from pathological conditions associated with AB secretion.

Group V, claim(s) 40, drawn to a diagnostic kit for detecting mRNA levels or protein levels of a protein selected from Table 1.

The inventions listed as Group I-V do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature for the following reason: the special technical feature of groups I-V is a modulator of a protein associated with AB secretion, such as modulator of a FADD protein. The modulator cannot be a special technical feature under PCT Rule 13.2 because the element is shown in the prior art. U.S. Patent No: 6,015,712 teach an antisense compound targeted to a nucleic acid encoding a FADD protein wherein the antisense compound modulates expression of FADD protein (see column 2 and example 15).

The claims are further restricted as follows:

Should Groups I-IV be elected, modulators selected from the group consisting of antisense oligonucleotides, triple helix DNA, ribozymes, RNA aptamers, siRNA and double or single-stranded RNA listed in claims 5, 12 and 30 are distinct inventions and

Art Unit: 1635

one (1) must be elected. The inventions are distinct from each other because each has a different structure and each has a different biological activity. The search and examination of all agents is burdensome because the searches are not coextensive.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

Claims 2, 9, 16, 21, 26, 33, 35, and 38 of Groups I-IV are drawn to specifically named protein and one (1) must be elected. Each of the proteins are distinct from each other because they each have a different structure and each protein can be modulated differently and effect the pathological condition associated with AB secretion differently, each of which has a distinct structure and function. The search and examination of each protein is burdensome because the searches are not coextensive.

Claims 7, 14, 19, 24, 27, 36 and 39 of Group I-IV are drawn to specifically named diseases that are treated by the administered a modulator of a protein involved in a pathological disease associated with AB secretion and one (1) must be elected. Each disease is distinct from the other because each has a different etiology and pathology. The search and examination of each disorder is burdensome because the searches are not coextensive.

Additionally, claims 1, 8, 15, 20, 32, 34, 37, and 40 improperly refer to proteins in tables. MPEP 2173.05(s) states in part " [w]here possible, claims are to be complete in themselves. Incorporation by reference to a specific figure or table is permitted only in exceptional circumstances where there is no practical way to define the invention in words and where it is more concise to incorporate by reference than duplicating a drawing or table into the claim". Applicant is required to refer to the proteins, in the claims, by the appropriate protein name.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimberly Chong whose telephone number is 571-272-3111. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between 7-4 pm.

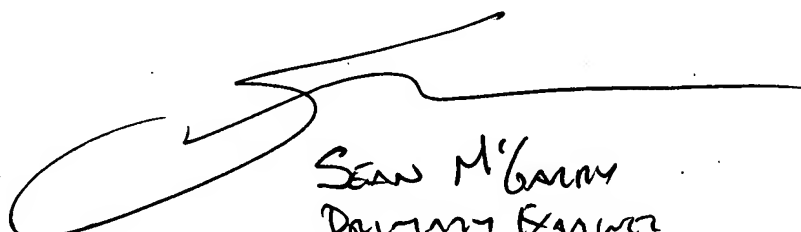
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Schultz can be reached at 571-272-0763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance.

Art Unit: 1635

Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-9199.



Sean M'Garra
Patent Examiner
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Kimberly Chong
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